

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4995

EO 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, IV

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S IEA/OECD PROPOSALS -- IVORY COAST REACTION

REF: A. STATE 124719 (NOTAL); B. STATE 95205 (NOTAL)

1. IN MEETING ON JUNE 10 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ARSENE USHER ASSOUAN, I PRESENTED THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS FOR A NEW APPROACH TO PRODUCER-CONSUMER DISCUSSIONS ON PETROLEUM AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS. LEFT EXTENSIVE AIDE MEMOIRE WITH MINISTER, ALONG LINES OF REFTELS, TOGETHER WITH RESUMES IN FRENCH OF SECRETARY'S MAY SPEECHES TO IEA AND OECD. USHER PROMISED TO READ AIDE MEMOIRE CAREFULLY AND RESPOND.

2. IN MEANTIME, HE DESCRIBED HIS OWN CHANGING VIEWS ON HOW LDC'S AND DC'S SHOULD NEGOTIATE ON SUCH ISSUES. HE SAID HE IS PREPARING AN ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION, WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON POST-VIETNAM USA. AMONG OTHER POINTS HE PROPOSES TO STRESS IS THAT, "APART FROM NATO", A U.S. MILITARY ROLE IS MUCH LESS IMPORTANT FOR WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY THAN A U.S. ECONOMIC

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ROLE. HE WOULD THEN MAKE THE CASE FOR IMPROVED TERMS OF TRADE

BEING MORE IMPORTANT THAN INCREASED AID, SINCE INCREASING DEBTS FROM LONG-AND MEDIUM-TERM BORROWING ARE OFFSETTING BENEFITS OF AID TO MANY COUNTRIES. THIS BROUGHT HIM TO THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON PARTICULAR COMMODITIES, BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. HE SAID HE WAS ALSO CONVINCED THAT THE APPROACH OF THE 6TH SS OF THE UNGA AND THE 29TH UNGA WERE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS ON COMMODITY MATTERS OR OTHER TERMS OF TRADE, SINCE THEY STIFFENED DE RESIDENCE. HE BELIEVES THE U.S. SHOULD BE WORKED WITH-AND NOT WORKED OVER-AT THESE AND OTHER MEETINGS.

3. I HEARTILY CONCURRED IN HIS COOPERATIVE APPROACH. I TOLD HIM WE WERE ALSO GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO HOW TO ACHIEVE MORE WIDESPREAD ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MORE EQUITABLE TERMS OF TRADE FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ARE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THE AID APPROACH, AND OTHER TIMES WHEN THEY ARE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THE TRADE APPROACH. IN A TIME OF RECESSION IN THE UNITED STATES, BOTH APPROACHES HAVE TOUGH SLEDDING, BUT I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WERE PULLING OUT OF OUR RECESSION AND THAT WE WOULD SOON BE IN A POSITION TO BE MORE FORTHECOMING ON THE TRADE SIDE. I SPELLED OUT THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS FOR ENERGY AND COMMODITY TALKS AND SAID I HOPED TO TALK WITH HIM AGAIN SOON ABOUT THESE PROPOSALS AND OTHERS RELATED TO THE 7TH SS OF THE UNGA.

4. COMMENT: USHER'S VIEWS REPRESENT A SHIFT FROM EARLIER CONVERSATIONS, AND CERTAINLY ARE DIFFERENT FROM IVORY COAST'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT (BY HIM) AT 29TH UNGA. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOIC IS BECOMING CONVINCED THAT CONFRONTATION WITH US IN INTERNATIONAL FORA IS NO MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN CONFONTATIONS BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE AFRICA. A POSITION THAT IVORY COAST HAS FIRMLY TAKEN AT LEAST SINCE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S "DIALOGUE" SPEECH IN 1971.
SMITH

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